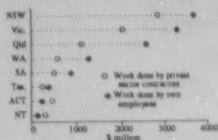


Statistics Weekly

Thursday, 14 February 1991

The week in statistics ...

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CONSTRUCTION, REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE
PUBLIC SECTOR EXPENDITURE, 1988-89

Private sector receives 39 per cent of government construction spending

The government sector spent a total of \$20,567 million during the financial year 1988-89 on construction activity. Of this total, 39 per cent (\$8,088 million) went in payments to private sector contractors.

Of new building work (\$5,253 million), the majority (82%) was carried out by private contractors while of all other work (\$15,314 million) government employees carried out the majority (75%). The total public sector construction workforce was 203,620 people.

By type of construction, the largest component of the total was \$13,558 million (66%) spent on engineering work. Of this, \$3,664 million (27%) was spent on the construction and maintenance of roads, comprising \$2,228 million on new roads and \$1,435 million on maintenance of existing roads.

The following table provides further details of road related expenditure.

GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE ON ROADS
1988-89
\$ million

State	Commonwealth		State		Local		Total
	New work	Repair and maintenance	New work	Repair and maintenance	New work	Repair and maintenance	
NSW	20.0	0.8	445.4	237.4	261.8	287.7	1,253.2
Vic.	4.7	0.7	327.6	115.0	203.9	191.0	842.8
Qld	3.7	6.1	187.7	116.6	206.4	178.1	698.6
SA	2.5	0.6	96.7	40.0	57.6	45.7	243.1
WA	2.8	0.6	112.9	51.9	85.7	48.5	302.2
Tas.	0.1	0.6	72.1	23.4	16.1	25.7	137.9
NT	1.2	3.8	56.2	37.6	2.9	3.4	105.1
ACT	60.5	20.4	—	—	—	—	80.8
Australia	95.5	33.5	1,298.6	621.9	834.3	780.0	3,663.8

This table shows that State and Territory Governments were responsible for over half (58%) of the total government expenditure on construction of new roads, while local government authorities spent the most (54%) on repair and maintenance of roads.

These statistics have been drawn from the Australian Bureau of Statistics survey of public sector construction activity. The next survey is scheduled to be conducted in 1994-95.

For further information, order the publication *Public Sector Construction Activity, Australia 1988-89* (8775.0), or contact Ross Upson on (06) 252 7911.

Decline in Christianity continues

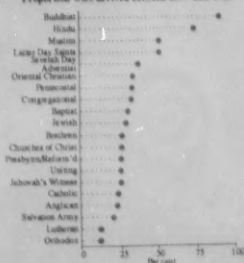
At the 1986 Census, 73 per cent of Australians responded to the religion question with a Christian denomination, 13 per cent said they had no religion and 2 per cent responded with a non-Christian religion. The remainder chose not to answer the only voluntary question on the census form. Seventy-five years earlier in the first national census, 96 per cent of Australians said they were Christians, 3 per cent chose not to answer the question and 1 per cent said they were non-Christians.

The new Australian Bureau of Statistics publication *Religion in Australia*, based on the Census, also reveals that a continuing decline in Anglican Church adherence saw Catholicism, which remained at 26 per cent of the population between 1976 and 1986, become the leading denomination with 4.1 million nominal adherents.

MAJOR RELIGIOUS AFFILIATIONS
Per cent

Census year	Anglican	Catholic	Other Christian	Total Christian	Non-Christian	No Religion	Not Stated	Other
1911	38.4	22.4	35.1	95.9	0.8	0.4	2.7	0.2
1921	43.7	21.7	31.6	96.9	0.7	0.5	1.7	0.2
1933	38.7	19.6	28.1	86.4	0.4	0.2	12.8	0.1
1947	39.0	20.9	28.1	88.0	0.5	0.3	10.9	0.2
1954	37.9	22.9	28.5	89.4	0.6	0.3	9.5	0.2
1961	34.9	24.9	28.4	88.3	0.7	0.4	10.5	0.2
1966	33.5	26.2	28.5	88.2	0.7	0.8	10.0	0.3
1971	31.0	27.0	28.2	86.2	0.8	6.7	6.1	0.2
1976	27.7	25.7	25.2	78.6	1.0	8.3	11.8	0.4
1981	26.1	26.0	24.3	76.4	1.4	10.8	10.9	0.5
1986	23.9	26.0	23.0	73.0	2.0	12.7	11.9	0.4

OVERSEAS-BORN RELIGIOUS ADHERENTS
Proportion who arrived between 1977 and 1986



Most of the increase in adherence to non-Christian religions occurred between 1976 and 1986, about 70 per cent due to immigration. For example, 91 per cent of overseas-born Buddhists, 74 per cent of overseas-born Hindus and 52 per cent of overseas-born Muslims arrived in that period (see graph at left).

Other selected facts to be found in the publication include:

- ☐ almost 1 million Catholics had been born overseas, (24 per cent in Italy), and 220,000 of these arrived between 1976 and 1986;
- ☐ Pentecostal was the fastest growing Christian denomination, increasing more than two and a half times between 1976 and 1986 to 107,000 or 0.7 per cent of the population;
- ☐ the number of Muslims in Australia more than doubled in the same period, reaching 110,000 at the 1986 Census. Most lived in NSW or Victoria;
- ☐ mixed marriages, with one partner Christian and one following a non-Christian religion, accounted for less than 1 per cent of couples;
- ☐ more than half of the nation's Jews aged 15 years or more held post-school qualifications. One-fifth held a degree or higher qualification.

For further information, order the publication *Census 86 — Religion in Australia* (2510.0), or contact Dot Russell on (06) 252 6214.

Award rates of pay indexes

Statistics on award rates of pay are published monthly by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, in the form of indexes, for full-time adult employees. The base month for the current series is June 1985, though similar series are available for earlier years.

As at June 1985, the indexes covered 3.0 million persons (2.1 million males and 0.9 million females) whose rate of pay was normally varied in accordance with awards, determinations and collective agreements. This was approximately 84 per cent of all full-time adult employees.

The award rates used in the compilation of the indexes are those prescribed in awards, etc., for a full week's work (excluding overtime) for a standard number of hours (also prescribed in the award). These rates generally consist of the base rate of pay plus any allowances or loadings (e.g. industry allowance, supplementary payments) that are applicable to all employees under a specific award classification. Allowances which are not included in the indexes are those which are not paid to all employees (e.g. site, height allowances). Superannuation and termination payments are also excluded from the indexes.

The indexes are constructed by weighting award rates of pay for selected classifications according to the pattern of employment which existed in May 1985. The awards and classifications selected in the indexes and the weights assigned to them remain constant over the life of the indexes. Therefore, changes in the indexes reflect general trends in award rates of pay over time and not relative levels of average award rates of pay.

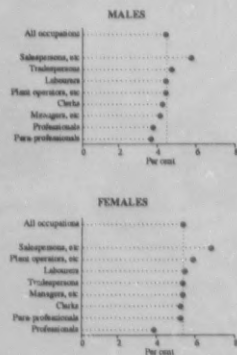
The source used to base the indexes is the May 1985 Survey of Employee Earnings and Hours. The survey collected information on the industry and occupation of individual employees, the award under which they were covered and their award classification.

Information on award rates of pay for classifications selected is obtained from a variety of sources. The primary updating sources are advices on award variations determined by wage fixing authorities. Information obtained is used to update the award rates of pay for each classification on a monthly basis and used for the compilation of the monthly indexes.

The graphs at left, drawn from the latest indexes, show the annual change in award rates for various occupations in the year to November 1990. Overall, the index rose in that period by 4.5 per cent for full-time adult males and by 5.4 per cent for full-time adult females.

Details of award rates of pay indexes are published monthly in Award Rates of Pay Indexes, Australia (6312.0). A range of more detailed unpublished data is also available on request. For more information contact Bruce McClelland on (06) 252 6581.

AWARD RATES OF PAY
FULL-TIME ADULTS
Change from November 1989 to November 1990



New guide to statistics on women

The new publication *An Index of Information About Women* will improve and assist access to the wide range of data published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) on women's social and economic status.

The ABS developed *About Women* in response to a request from the NSW Government's Women's Co-ordination Unit, to help clients locate and obtain the most up-to-date information available to suit their specific needs.

The publication will be especially useful for women's policy and advisory bodies, resource centres, researchers and students.

Statistical data by gender are available in almost all ABS population and social publications but it appears that problems of access meant the information was not being fully utilised.

About Women is an index of topics relevant to women, and the ABS publications containing statistics on these topics — for example, child care, education, employment, ethnicity, families, health, housing, income, lone parents, superannuation, welfare and many more. Consultations with the NSW Women's Co-ordination Unit and other interested organisations and individuals ensured that all key areas were indexed.

The index also includes general information on ABS products and services, selected statistical data on women and concise information on key data sources.

When used with its companion volume, the *ABS Catalogue of Publications and Products* (1101.0), *About Women* will help readers quickly find the appropriate ABS publications.

For further information, order the publication An Index of Information About Women (1117.0) — and the ABS Catalogue of Publications and Products (1101.0), if you do not have a copy — or contact Mark Barnett on (02) 268 4408.

This week in brief ...

☐ Wine sales

In seasonally adjusted terms, total wine sales in December at 26.1 million litres, represents a decrease of 1.7 per cent on November 1990.

Source: Sales of Australian Wine and Brandy by Winemakers, December 1990 (8504.0).

☐ Registrations of new motor vehicles

In seasonally adjusted terms, new motor vehicle registrations for October 1990 increased by 0.1 per cent over September 1990 and decreased by 1.3 per cent compared with October 1989. The trend estimate for total registrations declined for the seventh consecutive month.

Source: Motor Vehicle Registrations, Australia, October 1990 (9303.0).

Inquiries

The ABS supplies a wide range of statistical information:

- ☐ through its bookshops
- ☐ by mail order (including subscription)
- ☐ by facsimile
- ☐ electronically.

To order any of the publications that appear in *Statistics Weekly* or to inquire about the statistics and services available from the ABS, contact Information Services at any of the offices listed below. An Information Consultancy Service in each office provides assistance of a more extensive or complex nature.

ABS Central Office

PO BOX 10
BELCONNEN ACT 2616
(06) 252 6627
FAX (06) 253 1404

ABS State Offices

NSW (02) 268 4611
Vic. (03) 615 7000
Qld (07) 222 6351
WA (09) 323 5140
SA (08) 237 7100
Tas. (002) 20 5800
NT (089) 81 3456

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Suggestions

Any suggestions for improvement to this publication should be addressed to:

Peter Damcevski
Editor
Statistics Weekly
(06) 252 6101

☐ Livestock products

The number of livestock slaughtered during December 1990 fell in all categories except pigs when compared with November 1990. The largest falls occurred with calves which fell by 28.5 per cent and lambs which fell by 22.2 per cent. Calves and sheep slaughtering both increased by 20.2 per cent on the same month last year.

Source: *Livestock Products, Australia, December 1990* (7215.0).

☐ Industrial disputes

In October 1990, 133 disputes were reported in progress, involving 266,300 employees and the loss of 329,500 working days. This is the highest figure for employees involved and working days lost since June 1988 when 374,500 employees were involved and 488,300 working days were lost.

Source: *Industrial Disputes, Australia, October 1990* (6321.0).

All the week's releases: 6 to 12 February

General

Publications Issued in January 1991 (1102.0; \$5.50)

Statistics Weekly, 7 February 1991 (1318.0; \$4.00)

Economic Indicators, Vic., January 1991 (1307.2; \$6.00)

Social statistics

Health Insurance Survey, Aust., June 1990 (4335.0; \$15.00)

Labour statistics and prices

Industrial Disputes, Aust., October 1990 (6321.0; \$7.00)

The Labour Force, NSW, August 1990 (6201.1; \$14.50)

Labour Force, SA, November 1990 (6201.4; \$14.50)

Agriculture

Livestock Products, Aust., December 1990 (7215.0; \$7.00)

Secondary industry and distribution

Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Clothing and Footwear, November 1990 (8358.0; \$10.00)

Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Plastics, Rubber, Paints, Detergents and Industrial Chemicals, November 1990 (8362.0; \$6.50)

Sales of Australian Wine and Brandy by Winemakers, December 1990 (8504.0; \$10.00)

Building Approvals, NSW, December 1990 (8731.1; \$10.00)

Tourist Accommodation, Qld, September Qtr 1990 (8635.3; \$14.50)

Building Approvals, Qld, December 1990 (8731.3; \$10.00)

Domestic Appliance and Energy Usage, SA, October 1990 (8207.4; \$5.00)
— new issue

Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, SA, November 1990, Preliminary (8740.4; \$3.30)

Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, Tas., November 1990 (8741.6; \$3.30)

Transport

Motor Vehicle Registrations, Aust., October 1990 (9303.0; \$10.00)

Motor Vehicle Registrations, Vic., December 1990 (9303.2; \$6.00)

Motor Vehicle Registrations, Tas., December 1990 (9303.6; \$3.30)

Calendar of key releases

Expected releases over the fortnight to 26 February 1991

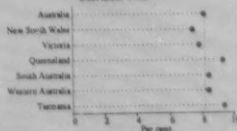
February

- 13** Consumer Price Index, December Quarter 1990 (6401.0; \$11.00)
- 14** The Labour Force, Australia, January 1991, Preliminary (6202.0; \$10.00)
Retail Trade, Australia, December 1990 (8501.0; \$10.00)
- 19** Private New Capital Expenditure, Australia, Actual and Expected Expenditure to June 1991, December Quarter 1990 Survey, Preliminary (5625.0; \$10.00)
- 20** Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia, December 1990 (5609.0; \$10.00)
- 22** Export Price Index, Australia, December 1990 (6405.0; \$7.50)
Average Weekly Earnings, Australia, November 1990, Preliminary (6301.0; \$3.50)
- 25** Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Eight Capital Cities, December 1990 (6407.0; \$10.00)
- 26** Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra, December 1990 (6408.0; \$7.50)
Manufacturing Production, Australia, January 1991, Preliminary (8301.0; \$10.00)

The latest ...

Changes to key State indicators — consolidated to
12 February 1991

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
Seasonally adjusted
December 1990



Statistics Weekly
14 February 1991

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
— Percentage change from same period previous year —									
New capital expenditure (Sept. qtr 90)*	-0.9	-10.9	5.4	11.2	-17.9	37.2	n.a.	n.a.	-3.4
Retail turnover (November 90) (trend estimate)	5.6	-3.0	4.6	8.6	1.7	7.4	n.a.	8.4	3.4
New motor vehicle registrations (Dec. 90)†	-0.8	-36.9	7.8	1.3	-12.8	13.6	-10.6	3.2	-10.6
Number of dwelling unit approvals (December 90)	4.0	-32.7	-12.0	-2.4	-27.5	32.5	4.6	72.5	-12.1
Value of total building work done (Sept. qtr 90)	-7.2	-7.7	-14.0	-6.3	-25.8	-18.8	-1.0	-9.0	-10.6
Employed persons (December 90)†	0.8	-1.0	-0.9	2.4	0.1	-0.7	-9.0	1.4	0.0
Capital city consumer price index (Sept. qtr 90)	5.8	6.4	5.3	6.3	7.0	5.5	6.0	6.2	6.0
Average weekly earnings (full-time adult; ordinary time) (August 90)	5.4	7.0	6.9	7.3	7.9	6.9	6.9	6.8	6.4
Population (June 90)	1.0	1.4	2.6	1.0	2.5	1.2	0.6	2.3	1.5
Room nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc (June qtr 90)	5.4	-0.9	5.7	5.5	-4.1	-1.2	8.5	14.8	3.6

* Seasonally adjusted except for NT and ACT. † Seasonally adjusted except for Tas., NT and ACT.

Key national indicators - consolidated to 12 February 1991

			Latest figure available		Percentage change (a) on		
			Original	Seasonally adjusted	Previous period	Corresponding period last year	
Period							
National production							
Gross domestic product	— current prices	\$m	Sept. qtr 90	93,635	93,427	-0.8	3.6
	— 1984-85 prices			63,132	63,670	-1.6	-0.7
Industrial activity							
New capital expenditure	— current prices	\$m	Sept. qtr 90	7,078	7,397	6.7	-3.4
	— 1984-85 prices			5,349	5,600	6.0	-5.7
Expected new capital expenditure		"	Three months to Dec. 90	8,311	n.a.	n.a.	-5.7
Retail turnover	— current prices	"	November 90	7,473	7,128	0.5	2.6
	— 1984-85 prices	"	Sept. qtr 90	14,213	14,858	0.4	0.4
Now motor vehicle registrations		no.	December 90	42,204	43,607	-7.1	-10.6
Dwelling unit approvals		"	December 90	8,438	9,798	-10.9	-12.1
Value of all building approvals		\$m		1,371	1,497	-21.3	-16.5
Value of total building work done		"	Sept. qtr 90	7,214	6,951	-3.7	-10.6
	— current prices	"		4,556	4,390	-4.2	-14.4
	— 1984-85 prices	"	Sept. qtr 90	35,796	34,854	1.3	-0.9
Manufacturers' sales		"	Three months to Dec. 90	37,757	n.a.	n.a.	0.3
Expected manufacturers' sales		"					
Labour							
Employed persons (f)		'000	December 90	7,941.2	7,852.4	0.3	0.0
Unemployment rate † (f)		%	"	8.1	8.1	-0.1	2.2
Participation rate † (f)		"	"	64.6	63.9	0.1	0.4
Job vacancies		'000	November 90	34.1	35.4	-27.8	-45.6
Average weekly overtime per employee		hours	"	1.3	1.3	-1.9	-16.3
Prices, profits and wages							
Consumer price index (e)	1980-81 = 100.0	Sept. qtr 90		208.9	n.a.	0.7	6.0
Price index of materials used in manufacturing industries	1984-85 = 100.0	November 90		133.7	n.a.	-0.3	13.3
Price index of articles produced by manufacturing industry	1988-89 = 100.0	November 90		113.5	n.a.	1.1	7.2
Company profits before income tax	\$m	Sept. qtr 90		1,449	3,337	-4.2	-23.2
Average weekly earnings (Full-time adults; ordinary time)	\$	August 90		541.00	n.a.	1.3	6.4
Interest rates (b) (monthly average)							
90-day bank bills †	% per annum	December 90		12.05	n.a.	-0.40	-5.75
10-year Treasury bonds †	"	"		12.05	n.a.	-0.20	-0.85
Balance of payments							
Exports of merchandise	\$m	December 90		4,317	4,104	-6.8	10.2
Imports of merchandise	"	"		3,963	4,344	-1.9	-8.4
Balance on merchandise trade (c)	"	"		354	-240	n.a.	15.8
Balance of goods and services (c)	"	"		158	-561	n.a.	15.8
Balance on current account (c)	"	"		-1,069	-1,775	-30.2	5.8
Terms of trade (d)	1984-85 = 100.0	Sept. qtr 90		n.a.	105.3	0.3	-1.8
Foreign investment							
Net foreign debt	\$m	30 Sept. 90		124,507	n.a.	1.4	7.3
Net foreign liabilities	"	"		165,472	n.a.	3.3	7.4
Exchange rates (monthly average)							
SUS	per \$A	December 90		0.7699	n.a.	-0.6	-2.1
Trade weighted index	May 1970 = 100.0	"		56.7	n.a.	0.9	-7.1
Other indicators							
Population (resident at end of qtr)	million	June 90		17.1	n.a.	0.3	4.6
Overseas visitors (e)	'000	June 90		157	201	5.6	11.0

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia. (c) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit, no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (d) The ratio of the price of goods and services for exports to that for imports. (e) Later figures expected to be released Wednesday, 13 February 1991. (f) Later figures expected to be released Thursday, 14 February 1991.

NOTES: † = change is shown in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available.

Figures have been taken from a variety of ABS publications. Copies may be obtained from Information Services (see page 6). Some of the figures shown are preliminary, some final, and some are revisions of previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with the ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important.

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